



AF/2876 ITW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Group Art Unit: 2876

MICHAEL J. SMITH et al.

Examiner: S. Paik

Serial No.: 09/825,912

Filed: April 4, 2001

For: CENTRALIZED ELECTRONIC SAFE AND ACCOUNTING
CONTROL SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: FIRE 0111 PUS

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is reply brief in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on
June 10, 2004.

Appellants maintain the arguments stated in the appeal brief. Appellants further
clarify some of these arguments below.

Brooks, Jr. still fails to suggest the claimed safe including a control system that
includes a processor programmed to control operation of the electronic lock for the safe as well
as operate as a central system controller when connected to at least one other remote safe.
Appellants contend that store host computer 43 is not part of a safe, and more particularly is

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